



Alexandria Community Remembrance Project member McArthur Myers leads the procession for the wreath laying ceremony to mark the 127th anniversary of the lynching of Joseph McCoy April 23 at Penny Hill Cemetery.



Mayor Justin Wilson addresses the crowd at the wreath laying ceremony in memory of lynching victim Joseph McCoy April 23 at Penny Hill Cemetery.

PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE RANDALL

‘Hanged by a Mob’

City marks 127th anniversary of McCoy lynching.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For Joseph McCoy, there were no lawyers, no legal proceedings, no testimony, no trial, no safety. Instead, the 18-year-old, who had been accused of assaulting the 9-year-old daughter of his employer, was dragged from his jail cell to the corner of Cameron and Lee streets and lynched by an angry mob who had breached the police station.

The date was April 23, 1897, and newspapers throughout the region carried the news of the brutal slaying.

“Hanged by a mob,” read the headline in the Alexandria Gazette. “The righteous indignation of old Alexandria was aroused last night ... and as a result Joseph McCoy, a negro ravisher, was strung up to a lamp post, bullets sent into his body, his head split open with an axe and other indignities heaped upon his quivering remains.”

On April 23, the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project held a wreath laying ceremony at Penny Hill Cemetery to mark the 127th anniversary of McCoy’s death.

Mayor Justin Wilson led a slate of speakers that included Interim Police Chief Raul Pedroso, Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church Rev. Josette Franklin, and Audrey Davis, Director of the African American History Division of the Office of Historic Alexandria.



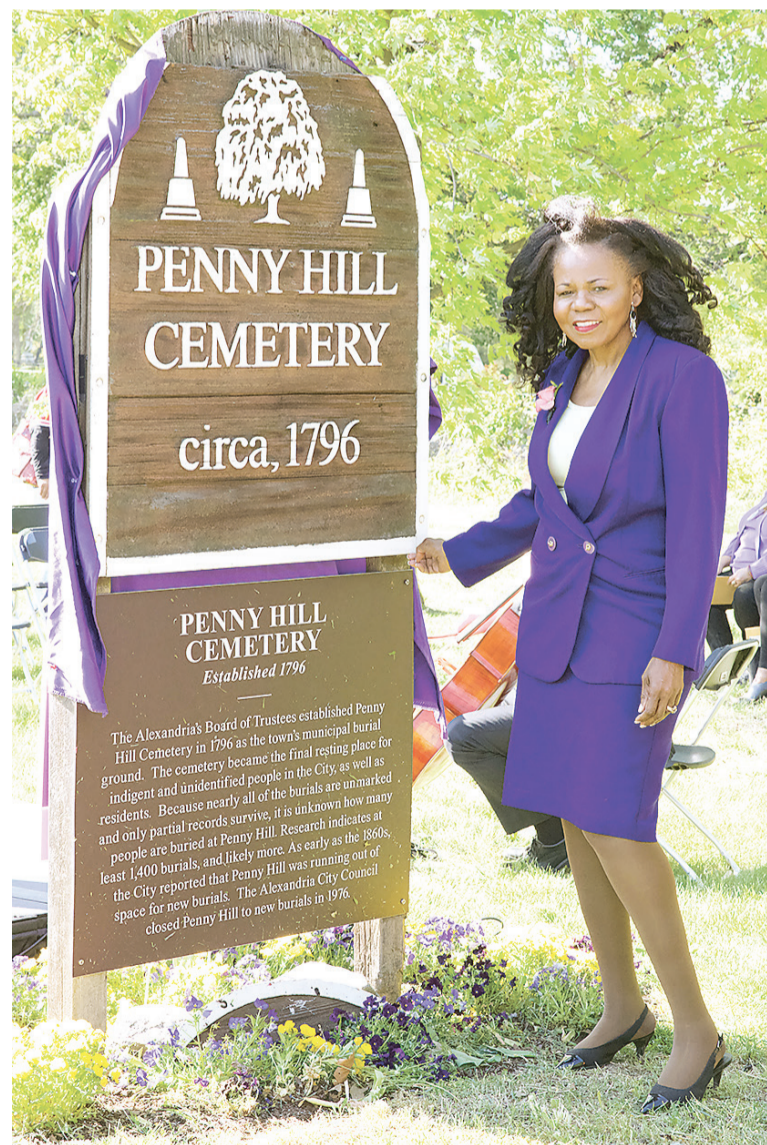
Members of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project listen to remarks while wearing t-shirts in memory of Alexandria lynching victims Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas.

McCoy’s death was one of two documented lynchings in Alexandria, out of 11 that occurred in Northern Virginia, and among the 100 documented lynchings that occurred in the Commonwealth between 1882 and 1968.

Though hundreds of Alexandria residents witnessed the event, no one was ever charged in McCoy’s murder.

An angry crowd had breached the police station jail, located at the site of today’s City Hall, and dragged McCoy out of the station house to the intersection of Cameron and Lee streets. It was there that they put a rope around his neck.

SEE MCCOY LYNCHING, PAGE 8



Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church Rev. Josette Franklin stands by the entrance to Penny Hill Cemetery, where lynching victim Joseph McCoy is buried following a wreath laying ceremony April 23.

SENIOR LIVING

Living Out Loud in Retirement

Three friends fulfill dreams to travel the world.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Three women, all retired, single and in their mid-70s, meet at Starbucks in Old Town Alexandria for coffee each Sunday morning. On a sunny day in mid-March, the ladies met to work out plans for a trip to Switzerland that they're scheduled to take this August. Each woman plays a distinct role in their relationship that, when put together, creates a harmonious dynamic. Fran Murphy is the dreamer, Liz Molloy is the planner, and Colleen Walsh is the doer. The women were friends in high school, lost touch over the years, but have reconnected in retirement.

"Some people might think being a single woman who no longer works full time means that we're lonely and sitting in the small apartment with 30 cats to keep us company," said Molloy, whose shoulder length platinum blonde bob, family crest signet ring and Hermes bracelets that cover her left wrist, create an image that defies that stereotype. "It's certainly not the case with us, and I really don't think it has to be the

case of anyone in our stage in life."

While life in retirement varies from person to person based on circumstance, Molloy, Murphy and Walsh say that they are fortunate to be healthy and have the financial stability to see the world. They have traveled to Italy, Greece, and Japan, immersing themselves in local culture. Their goal is to partake in the fulfilling activities that they've always wanted to explore, but could not because of family obligations and financial constraints.

"I had four children and a limited budget when I was raising my children," said Murphy, a retired nurse who lives in Mount Vernon. She was married for 27 years before getting divorced. "I never had the time or money to do anything for myself. Now I want to live fearlessly traveling and trying things that have always interested me."

Molloy, who is now widowed, was a stay-at-home mom for many years. Much of her adult life was spent raising her three children and then caring for her aging parents until their passing. "Now that my children have now grown and moved away, I have a sense

of freedom," said the Old Town resident. "For once no one is depending on me to take care of them. I have no one waiting for me to come home. I'm not lonely. I actually have a sense of freedom."

Septuagenarians and longtime friends Fran Murphy, Liz Molloy and Colleen Walsh traveled Italy last summer. This year they're going to Switzerland.

Walsh, also a widow, lives in McLean where she's resided for 32 years. She worked as an elementary school principal and her husband Tom was an engineer. The couple never had children, but she has a close-knit group of friends who have become like a family to her.

On this particular Sunday, Molloy is giving

the group a rundown of the hotels, tours and restaurants for their Swiss adventure. She is the group's de facto social activities director and travel agent. She peruses the trendiest travel blogs, lifestyle magazines, and other media outlets scouting out the hotels and restaurants that are in vogue each season.

"I still have a bit more to plan, but the highlight of our August trip is Hotel d'Angleterre in Geneva. We're staying in a suite with a beautiful lake view. I enjoy staying current. It keeps me connected."

While the women trust Molloy to make most of the travel decisions, they depend on Walsh to bring those plans to fruition. "I'm the most organized," Molloy says. She created a spreadsheet and a list of the tasks that must be accomplished. She assigns tasks to her friends and gives each a deadline. The most important item on the list is passport renewal.

With adventures that have run the gamut from attending lectures at the Smithsonian to bear watching in Alaska, Molloy, Walsh and Murphy say that they are committed to checking off items on their bucket lists.

"We're going to keep planning and doing for as long as we can," Walsh. "It's like we're making up for lost time."

Paws for a Cause

Dog Walk promotes sustainable living.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds turned out April 20 for the third annual ALX Dog Walk, a two-mile walk along Union Street followed by a celebration in Oronoco Bay Park.

The annual event was founded to promote plastic-free/sustainable living. The walk culminated with a Sustainability Festival that featured an ACT for Alexandria Spring2Action Nonprofit Village, a goodie bag for participants, music, bubbles, kids and dog activities, and a judged dog competition with prizes.

NBC4 Washington's Meteorologist Chuck Bell served as emcee for the event. Volunteers from The Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail led the Walk along with supporters from PawfectlyDeliciousDogTreats.org. The Board of Lady Managers of Inova Hospital hosted a bake sale, and The Greenery Coffee, a sustainable coffeehouse, provided coffee for those who brought a reusable cup.

The ALX Dog Walk, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, organizes the annual dog walk to educate the community about plastic-free and sustainable living while also helping to beautify the City of Alexandria and protect its environment.

The organization provides financial support to other nonprofit programs that direct-



Mary Wadland, right, with Royce Cohen and Rupert at the April 20 ALX Dog Walk.

ly help to extend the sustainability mission. The 2024 walk beautification support will go towards helping the Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail with upkeep and maintenance of the Trail.

www.alxdogwalk.com



Participants in the third annual ALX Dog Walk take to the streets of Old Town April 20 for a two-mile walk to promote sustainability.

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Ira Robinson is seen during this campaign for city council in 1970.



Ira Robinson, right, with former Mayor Kerry Donley in 2011.



A newspaper announces the election of Ira Robinson to Alexandria City Council in 1970.

Ira Robinson

Political trailblazer dies at 85.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Ira Robinson, the first African American to serve on the Alexandria City Council since reconstruction, died April 19 at his home in Temecula, Calif., following a brief battle with cancer. He was 85.

Considered a long shot, Robinson was elected to City Council in 1970 during a time of racial tensions that included several days of violence on the heels of the shooting death of 19-year-old Robin Gibson, an African American teen killed by the owner of a 7-11.

"Martin Luther King had just gotten killed in '68, Vietnam was just going on," said McArthur Myers, who was a 16-year-old volunteer on Robinson's campaign. "A lot of segregation still existed, you couldn't go into stores. Ira Robinson was hope."

Robinson was seen as a peacemaker and used his time on council to bring about major changes in education, housing and law enforcement. He was instrumental in implementing a 1971 secondary school integration plan that brought the Alexandria public schools into full compliance with federal desegregation law.

That plan included the consolidation of three previous high schools into a single T.C. Williams secondary school. The 1971 TC football team state championship helped unite the community and became the basis of the 2000 Disney movie Remember the Titans.

Before his election to council Robinson focused much of his activism on changing the face of policing in the city. In 1968 he served on the Alexandria Crime Commission and the following year was hired to produce a study of police and community relations in Alexandria.

Robinson also served on the Alexandria Commission on Criminal Justice and the



Ira Robinson, the first African American to be elected to City Council since reconstruction, died April 19 at the age of 85.

Metropolitan Council of Governments task force on drug abuse. He chaired the Alexandria Urban League voter registration drive, served on the board at the local branch of the NAACP and was a member of the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission. An avid sports fan, Robinson also advocated for young African American athletes who needed legal advice.

Ira Lawrence Robinson was born July 26, 1938, in New York City, the second son of Courtland Robinson and Lottie Olphin Robinson. Following the death of his father when he was 6 years old, Robinson's mother moved the family to her hometown of Richmond.

Robinson attended segregated public schools and graduated from Virginia Union University in 1959. He began a career in teaching but with the help of Affirmative Action was able to attend the University of Virginia School of Law.

In 1970, Robinson took a position as legal counsel with the Susquehanna Corporation in Alexandria. He became administrative

"Ira Robinson was hope."
— Political activist McArthur Myers

SEE IRA ROBINSON, PAGE 15

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Ira Robinson, right, with former Mayor Kerry Donley in 2011.



Ira Robinson with friends Andy Evans and McArthur Myers during a recent visit to Alexandria.

Was Arena Proposal for Alexandria Just a ‘Bargaining Chip’?

BY OLIVIA DILEO
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
VIDEO BY MATT BOWMAN, VCU INSIGHT

Virginia remains one of at least 20 states without a major league sports team after a recent multibillion-dollar deal collapsed.

Many people were skeptical of Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s proposal due to the use of taxpayer money to build a private sports venue, potential traffic congestion, a perceived betrayal of the fanbase and uncertainty of the team’s long-term commitment.

Some wondered if the potential pitch was just a well-played bargaining chip to help team owner Ted Leonsis get what he wanted from Washington, D.C. officials.

Days after the Virginia General Assembly extinguished the governor’s plan to relocate the teams, Mayor Muriel Bowser, City Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and Leonsis announced the Washington Wizards basketball and Washington Capitals hockey teams will remain in Capital One Arena until at least 2050.

The district’s City Council voted unanimously to accept the terms and pledge \$515 million.

The money will go toward an improved fan experience, enhanced player spaces and strengthened public safety measures. Monumental Sports & Entertainment, which manages the teams and is owned by Leonsis, will put around \$300 million toward a training facility on the top floor of the arena.

No one seemed to want the arena to move, except the people who directly benefited from it, including Virginia Tech, whose upcoming Innovation Campus sits near the proposed entertainment district. Most statements were issued through press releases.

An informal poll from four neighborhood civic associations found that 58% opposed the arena, 29% supported it, and 12% had mixed feelings. The associations sent the poll to 1,244 association members, and it had a 43% response rate.

History of the Deal

Youngkin officially announced the deal on Dec. 13, 2023, and it was considered officially dead on March 27, 2024 although it seemed unlikely to advance after it was boxed out in the Senate.

Youngkin attributed “personal and political agendas” for the deal’s collapse.

The \$2 billion public-private partnership deal would have created a sports and entertainment district in Potomac Yard in Alexandria — just a bridge and six miles away from the current arena.

The deal included an arena for both teams, a media studio for the Monumental Sports Network, a Wizards practice facility, a performing arts venue and an esports facility.

The plan also included restaurants, retail, hotels and other communal spaces.

In December 2022, a state economic development official started searching for potential sports arena locations for a top-secret project nicknamed “Project Potter,” according to the Washington Post.

The city of Alexandria began an economic and fiscal impact study in June 2023 to assess the potential move.

An arena would create approximately 30,000 permanent Virginia jobs and was “projected to generate roughly 2.5 times the economic output of what would otherwise be built based on current development

plans,” according to the study.

Youngkin met with the Major Employment and Investments Project Approval Commission, a group of appointed state legislators who oversee large economic projects, two days before the deal was made public, according to Cardinal News. However, several of those legislators were not returning to office.

Sen. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, who holds two lead Senate positions as president pro tempore and chair of the finance committee, was not at the meeting, according to Cardinal News. Lucas now serves on the MEI Project Approval Commission, effective in January.

Lucas became one of the arena’s biggest critics even before the plan was officially announced, stating on X: “While some people want sports stadiums ... I want tolls to disappear from Hampton Roads and I want recreational sale of marijuana.”

House and Senate bills were introduced to create and allow the Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority to fund and construct the Potomac Yard project.

The House bill passed with some bipartisan support. Both bills were assigned to the Senate finance committee that Lucas chairs and neither bill received a hearing. Project funding was not included in the biennial budget passed by the legislature.

Virginians deserved better and the proposal would have driven investments along with “tens of thousands” of new jobs and revenue, Youngkin stated.

Neither Monumental Sports nor key supporters of the arena would go on the record about the proposal benefits. Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, who carried the Senate arena bill, did not respond to email requests.

What People Say Went Wrong

The deal immediately received backlash from grassroots organizations, as well as fans.

Dennis Coates is an economics professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, who has researched the growth effect of sports franchises and public stadiums and arenas. Monumental Sports probably used the deal strategically, he said.

“I think it was always the bargaining chip,” Coates said. “If you want to extract concessions from your current landlord ... you wave around all of these potential concessions you are going to get someplace else.”

It hurt the proposal that the team never shared a proprietary report which allegedly showed the benefits of the deal, Coates said. And it is getting “difficult to swallow” the shorter timeline that teams want to stay in a location, he said.

“Why should I believe that you’re going to stay here for 40 years when you’re leaving the place that you’ve only been in for 20 years?” Coates said.

Grassroots organizations lobbied effectively against the move and were backed by a powerful senator, Coates said.

“So in a way you had kind of a perfect storm of somebody who was powerful and a lot of people who were angry all coming together to say: ‘No, we’re not going to do this,’” Coates said.

Monumental Sports would have likely negotiated with other counties to pressure competitive bids, according to Coates.

“The District of Columbia upped their bid and the team took it,” Coates said.

Visit www.alexandriagazette.com to watch

Video by VCU InSight reporter Matt Bowman: https://youtu.be/Z8jP-cpxyE2o?si=_dS3AcCSrpfLuDe

ANATOMY OF A DEAL

The timeline of Capital One Arena deal



Infographic by Olivia Dileo/Capital News Service

TIMELINE INFOGRAPHIC BY OLIVIA DILEO

Timeline of Alexandria arena proposal and collapse.

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SEE ARENA DEAL COLLAPSE, PAGE 9



ACPS teacher Kelly Meranda partners with a Miracle League player during the April 18 Miracle League game at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.



A Miracle League player, seated, prepares for a game with (from left) ACPS staff members Amy Creed and Paula Schnauser, Miracle League chair Mac Slover, and Jen Walker team member Sue Kovalsky.



A Miracle League player running the bases with a friend during the April 18 Miracle League game at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.



Mac Slover, left, chair of the Miracle League of Alexandria, is joined by Miracle League players in showing off the Jen Walker team logo prior to the April 18 Miracle League game at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Play Ball!

Miracle League, ACPS middle schools take to the field.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Miracle League of Alexandria opened its 2024 season as special needs youth from across the region took to the Kelley Cares Miracle Field April 18 alongside Alexandria City Public Schools middle school volunteers.

“Today is part of an outreach program we have with the Alexandria City Public Schools Office of Inclusion,” said Miracle League chair Mac Slover. “We have been doing this for the past three years and today we have our middle school game with students from GW, Hammond and Jefferson-Houston schools.”

Students and volunteers from the city’s middle schools – George Washington, Francis C. Hammond, and Jefferson-Houston – took to the field playing ball with Miracle League team players.

“We run the program the same way we do our leagues,” Slover said. “Players have an



Players and volunteers gather for a group photo prior to the start of the Miracle of Alexandria game April 18 at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.

opportunity to come out, hit the ball, circle the bases, and just have a good time. We have been working with Amy Creed and Paula Schnauser from ACPS the last three years and serve about 120 students in the spring and fall seasons.”

The Miracle League of Alexandria started in the spring of 2011 and is now in its 13th year. The organization provides opportunities for children and adults with any physical or cognitive disabilities that might cause them to be excluded from conventional baseball leagues. The league uses a volunteer buddy system called Angels in

the Outfield that pairs each player with an able-bodied peer.

Slover, who retired from the Department of Parks and Recreation in 2018, was a driving force behind establishing the Miracle League of Alexandria. Along with Bill Rivers, the two helped raise awareness and funds to build the Kelley Cares Miracle Field, a rubberized field that allows those with special needs to safely play baseball.

Slover praised the support of local Realtor Jen Walker, whose team of agents are sponsors of the Miracle League.

“We are very fortunate to have Jen Walker

and her team sponsoring our t-shirts,” Slover said. “Their support has allowed us to provide for our students for the last three years.”

Said Sue Kovalsky of the Jen Walker team, “It’s very exciting and a real honor to be sponsoring the t-shirts for these very special players.”

The Miracle League is a national program founded in 2000 in Atlanta and has grown to over 300 teams in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

For more information or the 2024 season schedule, visit www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com.



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Governor Puts Virginia's Domestic Violence Victims in Danger

Local legislators irate at Youngkin's veto of important bills.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

You could have heard a pin drop in the room as Lisette Johnson told the story of being shot by her husband of 21 years. It wasn't an easy story to tell. She tells it because she cannot believe Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed bills that would have prevented her husband from keeping that weapon after he threatened her.

"My verbally abusive husband was not mentally ill, he didn't just 'snap.' He had told me years earlier that if I ever tried to leave him he'd put a bullet through my head. I had asked him to keep guns away from our home and he said he had. But he had not. He knew exactly what he planned to do.

"I was one of the lucky ones — not just because I survived but because he didn't shoot my children. And as I lay bleeding from four bullets in my chest wall, liver, and diaphragm, my 12 year old daughter had the presence of mind to tell her brother to run next door and call 911. [My husband] had disabled the phone."

Virginia is one of a handful of states that hasn't closed fatal loopholes in the law. It is difficult for women like Johnson to understand why.

"What a slap in the face," she said, "for us to be considered so insignificant by our elected governor that he feels comfortable vetoing legislation that would have pro-

SEE VETO, PAGE 7



Diana Ortiz, Doorways Executive Director, said Doorways has been part of the community for almost five decades. "The increasing presence of firearms is a common denominator in the increased lethality of domestic violence. When we get a call from someone who is feeling threatened, the first question we ask is, has he ever used a weapon or threatened you with a gun? Do they have one?"

"I have worked at the Center for Gun Violence Solutions at Johns Hopkins since 2009 when my daughter was shot and injured at Virginia Tech. I've learned a lot since. . . . States with strong gun laws have lower death rates than [other] states."

— Laurie Haas, Center for Gun Violence Solutions, Johns Hopkins

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN



Lisette Johnson and Sen. Barbara Favola at the Doorways session on Gov. Glenn Youngkin's veto of important gun safety laws that would prevent guns from being in the hands of people with a history of domestic abuse.



Sen. Barbara Favola talked about Arlington County's efforts to curb firearms in cases of abuse. Her Senate Bill 47 was a law and order bill. "It was incredibly disappointing to have the governor veto a bill that ensured those subject to a protective order actually relinquished their firearms. We've heard from so many survivors that the firearm wasn't actually turned in... That's why I submitted this bill."



Sen. Russet Perry (D-31) told the crowd she had been a prosecutor before being elected.

"I dealt with the abuse of people who are victims of domestic violence. I had the honor of walking beside those who fought being abused - it's one of the reasons I ran for office. You can't change the law when you're a prosecutor, so I offered SB 642. It's a bill that is supposed to close the 'boyfriend loophole.' The courts would take a firearm from someone who was identified as an abuser. I listen closely to the Governor as he talks about support for victims and safely. Words don't matter. Actions matter. This is not a partisan issue. We won't be dissuaded by the Governor's indifference."



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker was the patron of HB 46.

"Nearly one-third of all homicides in Virginia are domestic violence incidents, and nearly two thirds of those involve a firearm. The bill would not have affected law abiding Virginians, only those who pose a danger to others. Governor Youngkin had his chance to stand up for victims of gun violence, and he didn't."



Adele McClure carried the house version of this bill, HB 362.

"The governor silences with a stroke of his pen many people who have been threatened or harmed by a partner, whether married or not. The Governor's veto protects abusers. HB 362 and SB 642 would have closed a loophole in current statute that allows those who commit domestic violence against a dating or intimate partner — the boyfriend loophole — to continue to possess their firearms. It is our DUTY as legislators to protect our citizens from abuse. This was a deadly veto, not just any veto."



Laurie Haas praised the legislators.

"These people are committed to saving lives. In addition to the shootings that go unnoticed, my colleague at Hopkins, Lisa Geller, in a study of mass shootings in the U.S., established that in two thirds of those mass shootings, the perpetrator had killed either a partner or family member or had a history of domestic violence before committing a mass shooting."

Veto Of Domestic Violence Gun Safety Laws

FROM PAGE 6

tected victims of sexual and domestic violence in Virginia. When courts hold abusers accountable it works,” said Johnson. “There is no reason why anyone under a restraining order should have possession of a firearm.”

Johnson’s advocacy for victims was emphasized by the appearance of four local legislators, some of them just elected, who stood up and talked about legislation they had gotten through the Virginia General Assembly only to be vetoed by Youngkin. And they were angry.

Jonathan Yglesias, policy director for the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, thanked Doorways for hosting the event. “Gov. Youngkin’s decision to veto these bills and cut millions of dollars from agencies providing vital services to crime victims jeopardizes the safety of women and families and leaves sexual and domestic violence advocates without the resources to do their jobs,” he said. “Without a significant influx of state dollars, there will be catastrophic and generational impacts on victims throughout Virginia.”

Doorways is one of those organizations seeing more calls for help and fewer resources.

“Youngkin cut more than \$7 million from agencies providing services to victims of domestic violence,”

said Yglesias, while reminding attendees that despite cuts, help is available with trained advocates 24 hours a day.

“We also need to be paying attention to the helpers and advocates who need places like Doorways to be open to them,” said Laurie Haas, Center for Gun Violence Solutions, Johns Hopkins.

“I have worked at the Center for Gun Violence Solutions at Johns Hopkins since 2009 when my daughter was shot and injured at Virginia Tech. I’ve learned a lot since. The greed driven efforts of the gun lobby to reframe the second amendment as the absolute right for anyone to carry any gun anywhere has resulted in our country being awash in firearms. We regulate our right to free speech. I can’t go into a theater and yell “Fire!” We regulate the right to assemble: I can’t go up to the Capitol and stand on the steps without a permit. States with strong gun laws have lower death rates than states with loose gun laws.”

To learn more: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/about/our-team>

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BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Join Friends’ Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City’s most vulnerable residents

have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria’s top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaledge@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.



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127th Anniversary of McCoy Lynching

FROM PAGE 1

McCoy was buried in a pine coffin supplied by the state of Virginia because his family had refused to pay for the cost of the funeral.

“As the people killed him, they will have to bury him,” said an aunt to the Alexandria Gazette at the time. McCoy was buried in Penny Hill Cemetery, a cemetery for the indigent, in a pauper’s grave.

“The damage to the city of Alexandria is incalculable,” reported the Richmond Planet, an African American newspaper. “It places that community before the world as a city of lawlessness, where officials disregard their oaths of office and without warrant or excuse suspend the law. What must be thought of a people who would elect such material to office? It shows that the city government is rotten to the core.”

As part of a weekend of remembrance, City Hall and the George Washington Masonic Memorial were illuminated in purple, the color of mourning, in honor of McCoy. Special this year is a self-guided remembrance walk created by ACRP. The walk can be accessed online at www.alexandriava.gov/cultural-history/joseph-mccoy-remembrance-walk.

To learn more about Joseph McCoy and the events of April 23, 1897, visit the In Memoriam page at Alexandriava.gov/Historic.



PHOTO BY LAWRENCE RANDALL

Audrey Davis, Director of the Alexandria African American History Division of the Office of Historic Alexandria, makes remarks at the 127th anniversary wreath laying in memory of lynching victim Joseph McCoy April 23 at Penny Hill Cemetery.



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Parkway Classic 40th Anniversary Run on Sunday

Alexandria’s centric race destination the PNC Parkway Classic, produced by Pacers Running, celebrates its 40th-year and returns Sunday, April 28, 2024. The race, sponsored by PNC Bank, attracts thousands of runners and spectators throughout the DC Metro region and beyond to experience the historic George Washington Memorial Parkway from a different vantage point during the Springtime.

The race takes place during National Park Week, observed from Saturday, April 20 through Sunday, April 28, 2024.

The signature adult race, beginning at 8 a.m., will feature two distance options for runners — 10 Mile or 5K. The 10-mile course will start at the Mount Vernon Estate and will take runners down the tree-lined George Washington Memorial Parkway and through Old Town Alexandria. Featuring a pre-race with family-friendly activities, a Kids Dash 600-meter race will take place for kids under 12 years old.

Runners over 21 years will receive a complimentary beverage from local brewery Port City Brewery. Par-

ticipants will also get a T-shirt and commemorative race medal. The Joe Chiocca Band will play at the finish festival, Port City Brewery pop-up, and other special activities to celebrate the runners. Jillian Hogan Homes returns as an Official Sponsor of the event and will host the PNC Parkway Classic VIP Experience.

Since its inception, the Parkway Classic has raised close to one million dollars for local and regional charities and organizations, such as Boys + Girls Club of Alexandria. For registration information, race route details and event day activities, visit: <https://www.parkwayclassic.com>.

EVENT DETAILS

What: 40th Annual PNC Parkway Classic, Presented by: PNC Bank

Produced by: Pacers Running (runpacers.com)

When: Sunday, April 28, 2024, 8 a.m. Race Start

Where: Mount Vernon Estate to Old Town Alexandria

Website/Event Registration: <https://www.parkwayclassic.com>

Arena Deal Collapse

FROM PAGE 4

The district officials eventually added another \$15 million from Mayor Bowser’s original offer, along with other perks.

If the team had not taken it, they eventually would have had to ask for financial help in the near future, Coates said.

“That’s just the way this game has played out case after case, city after city,” Coates said. “That’s what happens if you sort of threaten to move — if they don’t give you what you want you move to someplace that will.”

Grassroots & Advocacy

Ronald Moten is the co-founder and executive director of Don’t Mute D.C., which strives to preserve the district’s music, culture and history. In addition to traffic concerns, the move would impact the already struggling Chinatown community, Moten said.

The plan was selfish and would have many residual effects that were overlooked, according to Moten. Fans who have supported the teams for over 20 years felt “disrespected” by Leonsis.

“He’s not listening to the people ... when you have so much money you become a narcissist and nobody can tell you nothing,” Moten said.

John Breyault is vice president of public policy, tele-
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communications and fraud at the National Consumers League.

“We’ve become really familiar with how professional sports work and how teams and billionaire sports team owners get money out of states and localities to build playgrounds for themselves and millionaire athletes and their millionaire friends,” Breyault said.

The arena funding would take away from priorities that really help people, including affordable housing, health care or mental health services, roads and infrastructure, according to Breyault.

Breyault referenced a study done by J.C. Bradbury at Kennesaw State University examined the impact publicly funded arenas in the U.S. have on communities, dating back to 1909.

“Whether they achieve the economic development and taxpayer revenue goals their backers claim they will, and what they found is that they never do,” Breyault said.

VCU INSIGHT JOURNALIST MATT BOWMAN CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia. VCU InSight is the capstone broadcast news program.

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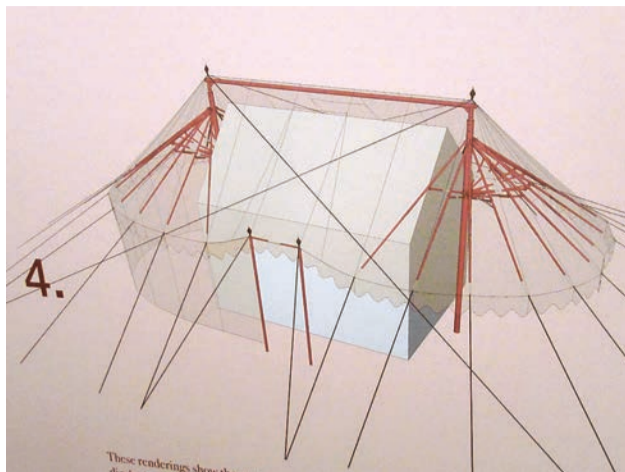
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HISTORY

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



A photo of George Washington's actual tent which is displayed at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



A rendering of the supports for the erected tent, displayed at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



A fragment of the original tent displayed at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Washington's step-grandson cut up pieces of the tent and gave them away as souvenirs. Many pieces were recovered.

Explore George Washington's 250-year-old Tent

Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend is May 4-5.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

A dull white cloth tent may not sound like an attention-getter, but if you think of it as a home, a war headquarters and the first U.S. Presidential Oval Office, it takes on a certain pizzazz.

On May 4 and 5, at George Washington's Mount Vernon, people can explore a replica of the tent that General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, used from 1775 to 1783 when he led the colonies to independence.

The actual, original, 250-year-old, flax linen tent with red scalloped edges is on display at Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution, where an introductory video intones, "The tent is like the republic. It survives."

The actual tent and the replica at Mount Vernon are oval shaped and approximately 24 feet long, 14 feet wide. They are 12 feet tall at the highest point. Washington was



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNT VERNON ESTATE

The replica of George Washington's battlefield tent at Mount Vernon is oval shaped and approximately 24 feet long, 14 feet wide.

over six feet tall and probably had to duck to go in and out. It was called a marquee tent in its day, typically used by high-ranking military officers, but Washington's tent was modest compared with the elaborate war tents of 18th-century European monarchs.

Washington chose to camp among his soldiers instead of using a building, the usual practice at that time. He wanted to share in his men's hardships and inconveniences. A French officer who entered the tent observed, "He did not display the luxury of a

monarchical general. Everything announced in him the hero of a republic."

Inside the tent Washington had a sleeping quarters with its own walls and ceiling, his private office and a combined baggage chamber and dressing room. There was also space for his enslaved aide, William Lee. Visitors to the replica tent at Mount Vernon can peek inside and see minimal, 18th-century, "camping gear."

After the war, Washington's tent had a multi-step, protracted journey, including time with Civil War Confederate General Robert E. Lee as its custodian at Arlington House, a co-owner of the tent because he married Martha Washington's great-granddaughter Mary Custis. Washington's step-grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, actually cut up pieces of the tent and gave them away as souvenirs. Some have been recovered and are displayed in the Philadelphia museum along with the original tent meticulously saved through conservators' delicate needlework.

18th-century Drills and Camp Followers

During Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War weekend, Continental soldiers, Brit-

SEE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WEEKEND, PAGE 11

STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP



Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 6-10, 2024, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

For additional information scan the QR Code.



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George Washington's Mount Vernon
#22031601

Reenactors as British redcoats flying the Union Jack.



George Washington's Mount Vernon
#16401154

During Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War weekend, May 4 & 5, reenactors dressed as Continental soldiers, British redcoats and Hessians will conduct military drills in uniform and reenact battles.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOUNT VERNON ESTATE



George Washington's Mount Vernon
#88331862

Reenactor mounted on a horse at Mount Vernon for Revolutionary War weekend.



George Washington's Mount Vernon
#24177405

Children visiting during Revolutionary War weekend at Mount Vernon can see weapons of war up close.

Revolutionary War Weekend

FROM PAGE 10

ish redcoats and Hessians will conduct military drills in uniform and reenact battles. The Hessians were around 30,000 German mercenaries from the principality Hesse-Kassel hired by the British to help fight the war. Visitors can explore a field encampment with several other tents.

Visitors to Mount Vernon can also interact with camp followers, mostly women and children, who traveled with the army and received payment and rations for their work as nurses, seamstresses, washerwomen, as well as merchants called "petty sutlers" who sold provisions and services to the soldiers.

"Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend happens just two days a year," said Julie Almay, Mount Vernon's Vice President of Media and Communications. "It is an exciting experience that gives us a window into what it may have been like for those who fought for America's independence. Because it was almost 250 years ago, it's sometimes



George Washington's Mount Vernon
#90426348

Visitors to Mount Vernon can also interact with camp followers, mostly women and children, who traveled with the army paid for work as nurses, seamstresses and washerwomen.

hard to remember these were real people who sacrificed for the cause."

250th Anniversary

In 2025, events around the nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War and the 250th

birthday of the United States.

More information

Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend: <https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/revolutionary-war-weekend/>

Virtual tour of Washington's field headquarters: <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/virtual-tour-of-washington-s-field-headquarters>

Tent details: <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/learn-and-explore/frequently-asked-questions-washington-s-war-tent>



The music in General Washington's continental army consisted of fife and drum corps. The army used fifes and drums not only to boost morale but also for communication and regimentation.

Mental Health: 10 Ways to Help

BY JOSEPH GETCH
CEO, HOPELINK BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Nearly 46% of Americans are expected to meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition in their life, half of which will develop conditions by age 14, according to Mental Health America. That's why it's important to know the signs and solutions. Our individual actions and understanding can be life changing.

As the leader of HopeLink Behavioral Health (formerly PRS), a regional nonprofit that delivers behavioral health and suicide and crisis intervention services, I approach the month from various vantage points. What we've seen over the years is that it's becoming more common for individuals and families to discuss behavioral health and to seek and get help. Keeping information about mental health flowing and accessible remains vital for us to continue the progress and ensure we can help our loved ones and help ourselves. That's why we've put together a list of ways to be part of the solution to change and even save lives. I hope you will

consider sharing these with friends and family.

10 Ways to Be a Mental Health Supporter

1. Listen: Listen for signs of distress from loved ones or friends such as talking about wanting to die, ending their life, having no reason to live, being trapped, or being a burden to others.

2. Watch: Observe for signs that can indicate a mental health crisis such as increased use of alcohol or drugs or impulsive or reckless behavior.

3. Ask: Ask the tough question. When somebody you know is in emotional pain, ask them directly: "Are you thinking about killing yourself?"

4. Follow Up: Check in with the person you care about on a regular basis.

5. Connect: Help connect people to resources. For an immediate crisis, encourage them to call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988. Or visit your county's local community services board for more resources.

6. Keep Them Safe: Ask if they've thought about a plan and remove access to lethal means

of self-harm.

7. Normalize: The more information that gets shared, the less stigma there is about mental health, and the more likely people will seek help. Consider using social channels or discuss mental health openly with friends and family.

8. Donate: Support local and national mental health nonprofits that are working to save and change lives. It matters and works.

9. Advocate: Being a voice with local, state, and federal government ensures that mental health is front and center and that funding for mental health programs exists. Write letters/emails to officials in support of mental health funding and legislation.

10. Volunteer: Nonprofits need volunteers whether helping with fundraising events, walking in a 5K, or answering crisis calls. Check in with mental health nonprofits like ours to learn about ways you can make a difference.

We've come a long way in the past decade. This May, we encourage you to join the movement to prioritize mental health. We have more tips for Mental Health Awareness Month on our website at HopeLinkBH.org. If we are successful, one day "mental" health will simply be a discussion about health. Visit <https://prsinc.org/crisislink/>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human Rights for Who?

Alexandria prides itself as a bastion of human rights, and our council members constantly remind voters of their commitments to equity and justice for all.

I therefore find it ironic and incredibly disappointing that the city council has made no effort to respond to the statement passed by its own Human Rights Commission on March 20, without opposition, in support of a ceasefire resolution. Not one council member made a public statement in support of Palestinians or Palestinian-Alexandrians. The council

won't allow a resolution on the agenda, despite a ceasefire recommendation from the body to whom the city entrusts deliberation around human rights.

As deaths at the hands of Israeli Occupation Forces pass the 34,000 mark and the starvation of Palestinians continues, calling for an unconditional ceasefire is no longer radical. Over 132 municipalities in the U.S. have called for a ceasefire, including Harrisonburg and Charlottesville. Normally Alexandria leads. Why not now?

The mayor has repeated that he "do[es]n't think the Alexandria City Council should be in the business of weighing in on the conduct of international conflicts." Yet, in the aftermath of Oct. 7, the city decided to light up city hall in Israeli colors, of which the mayor tweeted a photo, captioned "Alexandria City Hall is lit in the Blue and White as we stand with Israel and against the murderous terrorism of Hamas."

Clearly, our city's leaders have no problem speaking out on international issues when they feel

morally compelled to do so. What isn't compelling about genocide and apartheid faced by the people in Palestine? Our city's leaders claim to be committed to human rights for all Alexandrians, until those Alexandrians are Palestinians with friends and family members slaughtered and starved using our tax dollars. This is textbook hypocrisy coming from our city's leaders.

Amanda Eisenhour,
Alexandria for Palestinian Human Rights

Infant Immunization Week

Dear Editor,

April 22-29 is National Infant Immunization Week, an observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants and young children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

With summer just around the corner, now is the perfect time for families to proactively schedule appointments for their children's school-required vaccines. By scheduling vaccination appointments now, families can ensure their children

are fully protected against preventable diseases by the time school starts this fall.

Vaccines serve as crucial safeguards, protecting our children from preventable diseases and allowing them to enjoy a summer filled with fun and exploration.

This National Infant Immunization Week, let's prioritize our children's health by taking action on vaccinations now.

Rebecca Epstein
ImmunizeVA

Submit a Letter to the Editor

To submit a letter to the editor, email editors@connectionnewspapers.com or via the following form <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy.

Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

MARCH 5 THRU APRIL 28

Mosaics by Nina Tisara and Photographs by Steven Halperson. At Green Spring Gardens, 4601 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Opening Reception is Sunday, March 10, 1-3 p.m. The mother-son team had worked together at Tisara Photography in Old Town for three decades. Steven now manages the Alexandria portrait studio as well as creating painterly photographic images and unique etched copper art. Nina creates intricate mosaics of unglazed porcelain tile which are widely exhibited and collected. Their work may also be seen by appointment at Serenity Place Gallery, Nina's in-home gallery.

APRIL 1-30

Cherry Blossom Dreams. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Gallery 311, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Embrace the ethereal beauty of spring this month in the Van Landingham Gallery. Cherry Blossom Dreams features a collection of works presented by the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Artists participating in the exhibition interpret the essence of spring through a diverse range of mediums and styles.

APRIL 4 TO MAY 12

Japanese Inspiration: Sean Donnan, David Gootnick, Yoshiko Ratliff. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. To complement Washington's festivities celebrating the Japanese cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, the Athenaeum Gallery is featuring the work of three local contemporary artists whose work is influenced and guided by traditional Japanese art. Sean Donnan is an illustrator whose fanciful posters are inspired by Japanese mythology, anime, video games, and pop culture. David Gootnick creates lacy and delicate designs out of wood using an ancient Japanese artform called Kumiko. And Yoshiko Ratliff's paintings are bold, but intricately detailed representations of Japanese characters and Kimonos.

APRIL 9 - MAY 19

There and Back Exhibit of Photographic Art by Maureen Minehan. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union Street, Studio 312, in Alexandria. There and Back reflects Maureen's ceaseless desire to explore the beauty inherent in solitude. Through her artistic vision, she portrays isolated landscapes not as desolate or forsaken, but as

sanctuaries where quietude reigns supreme, and narratives yet untold await discovery. Maureen will be at the gallery on Sunday, April 21st from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MAY 3 TO JUNE 2

"The Art of Tea" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art that explores themes and stories woven around this aromatic beverage. From tea cups and tea pots to the Mad Hatter or Boston Tea Party, this exhibit intrigues and delights. Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Reception: Friday, May 3, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (June 2, 12-4pm). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

APRIL 4 TO MAY 12

Special Gallery: "Japanese Inspiration." At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. To complement Washington's festivities celebrating the Japanese cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, the Athenaeum Gallery is featuring the work of three local contemporary artists whose work is influenced and guided by traditional Japanese art. Sean Donnan is an illustrator whose fanciful posters are inspired by Japanese mythology, anime, video games and pop culture. David Gootnick creates lacy and delicate designs out of wood using an ancient Japanese art form called Kumiko. And Yoshiko Ratliff's paintings are bold, but intricately detailed, representations of Japanese characters and kimonos.

APRIL 5-27

"Same But Different" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores notions of identity, distinctions and similarities in our natural and manmade world. This exhibit showcases the interconnectedness of humanity and the uniqueness of things that may appear to be the same. Opening Reception: Friday, April 5, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY

APRIL 24TH, the Friends of the Duncan Library will be holding their Spring Book Sale. In addition to providing an opportunity to get great books on the cheap, this sale benefits the operations of one of Alexandria's neighborhood library branches.

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

Events at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is opening two new exhibits as part of a dynamic re-birth including an expanded, inclusive narrative focused on telling the fullest story of all people



The Metropolitan School of the Arts will present its Spring Ballet: Coppelia on April 27-28, 2024 at George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria.

associated with the property. The exhibit Woodlawn: People & Perspectives traces the history of the site of Woodlawn, a former plantation owned by Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis, George Washington's step-granddaughter. The exhibit follows the Lewis family and the people they enslaved, through the site's history as Quaker site of free labor before Emancipation, and the preservation of the site in the 20th century.

The exhibit, Offerings for Tauxenent: Acknowledging Indigenous Place brings attention to the Doeg, the Indigenous people who originally inhabited the land Woodlawn sits on, and their forced absence from the area. This is one of first known exhibits to highlight the Doeg people

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Shopping at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Shop for heirloom vegetables, herbs, annual flowers, native perennials, trees, and shrubs grown in Mount Vernon's greenhouses. Members can shop one day early, on April 26, with a reservation. Advance tickets are not required on April 27 for the general public sale. Members receive a 10 percent discount on plants.

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Homeschool Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Discover the architecture and history behind two American houses from different centuries. Special guided tours of the houses will be available on the hour starting at 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, and 1 PM. Hands-on activities will explore different aspects of the homes' histories. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/nwshow24>

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

SFA Tapestry. Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's 38th Annual Gala and Auction. 6 p.m. to midnight. At Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria. The fun begins

with a 2-hour open bar reception while mingling with 499 other Alexandrians who care. Then join us in the Ballroom for a delicious dinner, silent and live auctions, followed by dancing to a live band until midnight. Buy a ticket or join the Honor Roll of Giving as a sponsor of this important event, helping students with financial need achieve their college and career dreams. All proceeds go toward the SFA scholarships awarded annually.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Native Plant Sale in Northern Alexandria. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in D.C. Metro Area hosts 11 vendors from three states and D.C. selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. This event is free. 1701 N. Quaker Lane in Church of St. Clement parking lot, Alexandria. Call 571-232-0375 or cscottknudsen@gmail.com or www.NorthernAlexandriaNative-PlantSale.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Environment Expo. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria. This free family-friendly festival will feature loads of activities and exhibitors sharing information about climate action, environmental challenges we face and how we can take action to make Fairfax County, and the world at large, a healthier, more sustainable place. There will be live music, reptile and raptor demonstrations, food, face painting, make and takes, giveaways, solar cooking, CCTV Robot Camera Demos, touch-a-truck, the Purple Glass Monster, an EV Showcase and more.

APRIL 27-28

Metropolitan School of the Arts to Present Spring Ballet: Coppelia. At George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. Showtimes at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. Coppelia, a captivating tale of love, mischief, and mechanical dolls. Audiences can experience a village brought to life by dance, where fantasy and reality blur in this heartwarming story, perfect for all ages. In addition to the performances, MSA will also feature a Springtime Marketplace and a meet-and-greet session after the show. Tickets are from \$18 to \$25 and can be purchased at metropolitanarts.org

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

PNC Parkway Classic Race. From Mount Vernon Estate to Old Town Alexandria, the PNC Parkway Classic, produced by Pacers Running, celebrates its 40th-year and returns Sunday, April 28, 2024. The race, sponsored by PNC Bank, attracts thousands of runners and spectators throughout the DC Metro region and beyond to experience the historic George Washington Memorial Parkway from a different vantage point during the Spring-

time. The signature adult race, beginning at 8:00 a.m., will feature two distance options for runners - 10 Mile or 5K. The 10-mile course will start at the beautiful Mount Vernon Estate and will take runners down the tree-lined George Washington Memorial Parkway and through historic Old Town Alexandria; a unique opportunity for runners of all skill levels. Featuring a pre-race with family-friendly activities, a Kids Dash 600-meter race will take place for kids under 12 years old. For registration information, race route details and event day activities, visit: <https://www.parkwayclassic.com>.

THURSDAY/MAY 2

May Coffee & Connections. 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. At The Landing Alexandria, 2620 Main Line Blvd., Alexandria. The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network May Coffee & Connections. Hear from ACT for Alexandria President & CEO Heather Peeler who will share her amazing story.

<cal1>Thursday/May 2

<cal2>Maskerade: Moving Tradition Forward. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. In celebration of Asian Heritage month in May, Fiesta Asia & Dance Asia jointly presents Maskerade: Moving Tradition Forward - a dance showcase of mystery and enchantment featuring Asian mask cultures. This presentation will feature works that explore the influence and charisma of masks across different regional cultures. The jovial, the forbidden, the divine, the sanguine, masks are significant elements in many folk and traditional ceremonies, rituals and traditions and are often of an ancient origin. Witness the vivacity of movement and partake in the dance!

MAY 4-5

Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Step back in time at Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend on May 4th and 5th. Mount Vernon's 12-Acre Field transforms into a battleground as Continentals, Redcoats, and Hessians conduct military drills, perform cavalry demonstrations, and engage in 18th-century tacticals.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SUNDAY/MAY 19

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Across lower King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Sponsored by Burke & Herbert Bank. The event is a high-sensory spectacle for participants, spectators and car enthusiasts, allowing them to experience the "Speed & Style" variety of exotic supercars and vintage motorcycles

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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Obituary

Obituary

Legals

Hugh Joseph Nugent, 93 years old, died of natural causes March 11, 2024 in Goodwin House, Alexandria Virginia. Hugh was born on May 8, 1930, to Anthony P. Nugent Sr. and Elizabeth M. Nugent, Kansas City, Missouri. Hugh is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mary Jane Kirchner Nugent, and his four children, Tim Nugent, Maureen Nugent, Michael Nugent, and Katy Hayes.

Hugh held a BS degree from Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Mo.; an MA and a JD from the University of Kansas City; an LLM from Georgetown University; and a master's in public administration from Harvard. As a law student at the University of Kansas City, he was editor in chief of the Law Review and graduated with distinction. He attended Harvard on a Career Education Award. He was a member of the Missouri Bar and taught at the University of Illinois, University of Maryland (overseas program), University of Kansas City, and Rockhurst College. Hugh served as assistant attorney to the U.S. deputy attorney general as director of planning and evaluation from 1965-69. Hugh led a task that involved moving the Bureau of Narcotics in the Treasury Dept and the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control from the Department of Health Education and Welfare to the Department of Justice, merging them into the new Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. His other posts included those of executive assistant to the U.S. assistant attorney general in the Lands Division of the Department of Justice and attorney in the appellate section of the Lands Division, where he was chosen as an honor recruit in the division. He served as director of education for the Federal Judicial Center and director of American University's Center for the Administration of Justice. He formed Hart, Nugent & Ahearn, P.C. Attorney and Counseling at Law, a criminal justice consultant for the Institute for Law and Justice. Hugh was very active in the Catholic Church, performing as a cantor, head of the Parish Council, and developing and conducting marriage prep programs; in addition, he was chairman of the Liturgical Council, chairman of the 50th Jubilee, and oversaw a Re-membering Community with alienated Catholics. Hugh also served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Nuremberg, Germany. He was MP and Education Specialist for the 793rd Military Police Force.

A memorial service to celebrate Hugh's life will be held on April 26, noon to 2 pm at the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22302.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that AlexRenew will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PROPOSED OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Environmental Center Building located at 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA. The meeting will be held in person and broadcast on Microsoft Teams. The proposed FY2025 budget and AlexRenew's audited financial statements are available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com. Copies will be made available upon request - phone (703) 721-3500 ext. 2260.

AlexRenew
BY: Adriana Caldarelli
Secretary - Treasurer

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

rarely seen sitting still for up-close viewing. Center-stage at noon, a unique Fashion Demonstration will be hosted by Maria Elizabeth of Alexandria-based Salon DeZEN. Maria will discuss the elegance and importance of natural fashion and its profound impact when paired with beautiful automobiles. An award presentation highlighting cars judged to be the finest in 11 categories, will immediately follow the Fashion Demonstration. In addition to the Festival itself, the pre-Festival High-Octane Ball will take place the night before, on Saturday, May 18th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria. For more information about the festival and to purchase tickets to the High-Octane Ball, visit www.festivalofspeedandstyle.com.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

APRIL

Thu. 25: Brandy Clark w/ SistaStrings \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
 Fri. 26: The Stylistics \$65.00
 Sat. 27: B.J. The Chicago Kid \$35.00
 Sun. 28: Take 6 \$45.00

MAY

Thu. 2: Al Stewart with The Empty Pockets \$49.50
 Fri. 3: Al Di Meola Electric Band \$59.50 SOLD OUT!
 Sat. 4: VARIETOPIA with Paul F. Tompkins



Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend takes place May 4-5, 2024 at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

\$35.00 SOLD OUT!
 Sun. 5: Madeleine Peyroux w/ Joy Clark \$59.50 SOLD OUT!
 Wed. 8: Vienna Teng w/ Jean Rohe \$35.00
 Thu. 9: The String Queens \$35.00
 Fri. 10: 10,000 Maniacs \$55.00 SOLD OUT!
 Sat. 11: The Longest Johns "The Voyage Tour" w/ Sean Dagher \$29.50 SOLD OUT!
 Sun. 12: The Longest Johns "The Voyage Tour" w/ Sean Dagher \$29.50 SOLD OUT!
 Mon. 13: Stanley Clarke Band \$59.50
 Wed. 15: David Sanborn \$49.50
 Fri. 17: BoDeans \$35.00
 Sat. 18: Harmony Sweepstakes A Capella Festival

Mid-Atlantic Regionals \$35.00
 Sun. 19: The Sun Ra Arkestra - 100th Birthday Celebration of Maestro Marshall Allen \$39.50
 Mon. 20: Leonid & Friends \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
 Tue. 21: Lucero w/ William Matheny \$39.50
 Thu. 23: Ruth Moody (of The Wailin' Jennys) \$35.00
 Fri. 24: Chante' Moore \$79.50 SOLD OUT!
 Sat. 25: Walter Beasley \$49.50
 Sun. 26: Maggie Rose: No One Gets Out Alive Tour w/ Fancy Hagood \$29.50
 Fri. 31: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$65.00

Date to Who Knows When



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Continuing the theme from last week's column: it's been medically documented and agreed that I now have papillary thyroid cancer stage IV, and wait for it: chronic kidney disease, also stage IV. This is my new narrative, my current medical situation. This replaces the narrative that had characterized the previous 12 years (until I began treatment for thyroid cancer, after having an operation to remove my thyroid called a thyroidectomy in 2020) that I had non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. As the Lombardi Center (Georgetown) thyroid cancer doctor told me when we went there for a second opinion; after reviewing my medical records said, "If you (meaning me) had lung cancer, we wouldn't be having this conversation." Which means, for all of you readers who haven't yet had your morning coffee, I'd be dead. That's because lung cancer is a killer. Though I might have laughed at the time, I soon stopped laughing when we discussed the effectiveness of the drug I had been prescribed. The doctor said it was the best drug to prescribe, one she most definitely would have prescribed. The problem: it was not a lifelong solution. In fact, it is a one to three-years-ish solution after which, as we say in Boston: "It will be Katie bar the door," which means trouble.

And that was years before I found myself in my current hot seat: stage IV kidney disease caused as a direct result of the years of chemotherapy and the most recent three years of that exact thyroid cancer drug/treatment. As a result, I am no longer taking my thyroid cancer drug so I am presently drifting along with untreated thyroid cancer and untreated (not much the doctors can do I'm told; kidney damage is irreparable) kidney disease. A "double-header" if there ever was one. As Matt Damon said in a classic scene from the movie "Good Will Hunting": "How do you like them apples?" I don't but I will deal with this new hand as I have in the past with the old, whether there's a fat lady singing: "It ain't over till it's over" or not.

And for those of you following along at home, given the fact that I am nearing the age of 70 and am already a cancer patient, a kidney transplant is completely out of the question. Which leaves me with a bit of an uncertain future with few drugs if any, that can successfully treat my stage IV papillary thyroid cancer without damaging my kidneys. And if I damage my kidneys further, I will be on d,d, dialysis. Once this treatment starts, at present, there is no undoing it. I will be on dialysis for the rest of my life. A life which can last for years with a reasonably normal-ish quality and mobility of life (as we've learned). If I were to cross that Rubicon however, I have been well-informed by my medical provider, and some steps have already been taken to prepare and educate me as to the challenges – and opportunities that await. It is not, from what I have learned, a death sentence nor a situation that necessarily confines me to a Barcalounger at an infusion center Mon., Wed., and Fri. for six hours per day, as I had thought.

Part of that education process has been and continues to be interactions with a renal-specific dietician, a nutritionist, and a pharmacy specialist with the hope of slowing down my descent into dialysis. We can't exactly treat the kidneys I'm told, but we can certainly stop stressing them. Eliminating certain foods, medical supplements, miscellaneous drinks (coffee and colas, for an example), and further reducing the amount of liquid that I do drink. This will put less pressure will be put on the kidneys to filter – which is after all, what they do. With this new knowledge and my acceptance of the somewhat tenuous grasp of my future, I will try to eliminate the bad while adding the good. Bad being sodium, potassium, and phosphorus primarily, and of course all the chemicals that manufacturers put in our food. I have lists to follow and articles to read and reread until this dietary evolution becomes second nature to me. Nonetheless, I don't feel as if I've been left to wither on the vine, so to speak. I have regular calls scheduled with these various medical professionals, aside from regular commitments with my oncologist, endocrinologist, nephrologist and of course, my primary care provider as well - who knows me years longer and better than any of these specialists. He knew me before cancer (in fact, he was the one who called me with the results of my surgical biopsy, 15+ years ago). Moreover, I know I can count on him. He's regularly available whenever I need an assessment of any new medical conditions/symptoms. He is an email away and is super responsive. I'll often receive same day feedback from him which for anyone, especially a cancer patient with stage IV chronic kidney disease complicating his life as a papillary thyroid patient, is a kind of responsiveness that I must have. Furthermore, I need to feel that someone is watching and/or listening to me because my situation is quite serious, and time might not be exactly on my side. I don't imagine that having two major health concerns, thyroid cancer, and chronic kidney disease, makes any of these conversations easy. Nevertheless, I'm glad to know where I'm going since I haven't always known where I've been.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for *The Potomac Almanac* & *The Connection Newspapers*.

OBITUARY

Ira Robinson

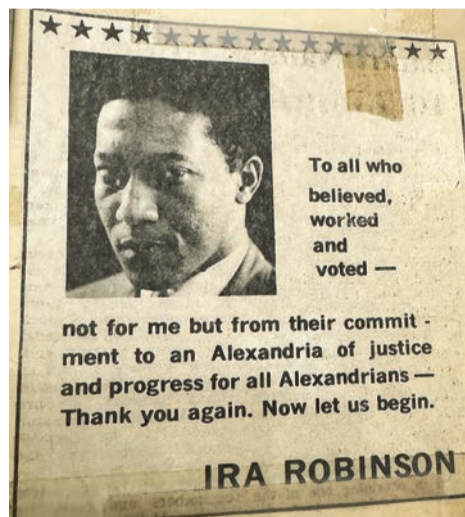
FROM PAGE 3

assistant to the president of Atlantic Research Corporation, an aerospace firm which was a subsidiary of Susquehanna.

Following his term on council, Robinson transferred to Susquehanna's Los Angeles office. He remained in the LA area until his retirement in 2006 working at various Southern California firms advising them on health care and real estate law.

Upon retirement, Robinson moved to Temecula, where he resumed the political activism of his early years by registering voters and campaigning for Democratic candidates for congress in majority Republican districts. He returned to Northern Virginia twice in recent years to supervise Election Day voting as a member of the National Democratic party's voter protection team.

Robinson is survived by former wives Sharon Derring Robinson of Playa Vista, Calif., and Barbara Thibault Robinson of Irvine, Calif.; daughter Cary Robinson of Playa Vista; son Marcus Robinson of Tracy, Calif.; granddaughters Jasmine Tookes-Borrero, and Chloe Conwell; great granddaughter Mia Victoria Borre-



A newspaper ad following the 1970 election of Ira Robinson.

ro, and many great nieces and nephews.

Robinson is also survived by lifelong friends Andrew Epps of Richmond, Andrew Evans of Washington DC, and Mary Ames, originally of Alexandria.

Robinson was preceded in death by his parents Courtland Robinson and Lottie Olphin Robinson, his brother Courtland Robinson, sister-in-law Margetta Robinson, and first wife Rose Robinson Roberts.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



A 1970 campaign brochure for long-shot council candidate Ira Robinson.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the undergraduate school of Virginia Union University and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Said Myers, "During a time of many challenges in America, Ira Robinson was the right person, at the right time."

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